

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
(hereinafter referred to as "MOU")

between the

Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,  
United Nations  
(hereinafter referred to as "UN/ISDR")

and the

Earth Sciences Sector,  
Department of Natural Resources, Canada  
(hereinafter referred to as "ESS")

(hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Participants")

concerning

Cooperation in the field of Natural Hazards and Disaster Reduction

WHEREAS the Participants, on the basis of this MOU, are mutually interested in developing and reinforcing their cooperation in the field of natural hazards and disaster reduction, especially in landslide, earthquake, flooding and tsunami hazards and related subjects such as climate change and remote sensing;

WHEREAS this MOU establishes a framework for this cooperation in joint investigations and scientific exchanges concerning the field of natural hazards, on subjects of mutual interest and their application to reduce risk; and

WHEREAS the Participants are participating in this MOU with a view to contributing to the development of scientific co-operation between UN/ISDR and ESS, reinforcing and strengthening the institutional links between the two organizations.

The Participants, therefore, have reached the following understanding:

Article One

The objective of this MOU is to establish a framework for cooperation between the Participants on the basis of equality, overall reciprocity and mutual benefits.

Article Two

This MOU is general in nature and is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive. When the Participants intend to undertake a form of cooperation as described in this MOU, the Participants will execute an Implementing Arrangement that will set forth the timing and scope of the specific form of cooperation and any other matters on which agreement may be desirable such as funding, intellectual property, and liability.

Article Three

Cooperation under this MOU may include the following areas of interest where appropriate:

1. Exchange of knowledge on disaster reduction and risk assessment;
2. Decision support systems in hazard reduction policy;
3. Geohazard investigation, monitoring and research;
4. The relationship between climate change and hazards;
5. Geological hazards and risk assessment methodologies;
6. Multidisciplinary approaches for natural hazards mitigation;
7. Application of state-of-the-art GIS, remote sensing and modelling tools to natural hazards;
8. Studies on providing assessment of landslide, erosion, glacier, permafrost, and earthquake hazards; and
9. Other areas of cooperation as may be mutually agreed between the Participants.

**Article Four**

Cooperation under this MOU is subject to and dependent upon the availability of funds and resources from each Participant, and may include the following forms:

1. Exchange visits of individual scientists;
2. Exchange of scientific and technical information including specimens and standards;
3. Collaboration on individual research problems of mutual interest, and the study of techniques and methods;
4. The development of contacts (both nationally and internationally) in the industrial sectors and academia; and
5. Other forms of cooperation as may be mutually agreed upon in writing by the Participants.

**Article Five**

The scientific and technical results of cooperative projects conducted under this MOU will be shared and published or held in confidence in accordance with the specific terms identified in the associated Implementing Arrangements.

**Article Six**

In order to implement cooperation under this MOU, the Participants will designate appropriate representatives to identify cooperative activities and details of implementation.

**Article Seven**

No cost incurred by one Participant shall be assumed by the other Participant unless otherwise agreed to in writing under an Implementing Arrangement pursuant to this MOU. All costs or estimated costs will be detailed in the Implementing Arrangements.

**Article Eight**

Any and all property or equipment of whatever nature or kind furnished by either Participant in connection with work under this MOU is and will remain the property of the Participant furnishing such property and equipment.

**Article Nine**

This MOU will become effective upon signing by both Participants and remain in effect for three (3) years, unless extended or terminated. This MOU may be amended or extended by mutual written agreement, and may be terminated at any time by either Participant upon three (3) months written notice to the other Participant.

Termination of this MOU does not affect the implementation of any existing Implementing Arrangements between the Participants. Termination or amendment of the Implementing Arrangements will be in accordance with the provisions of each specific Arrangement.

**Article Ten**

This MOU does not create any legally binding obligations between the Participants.

Signed at Geneva on the 04 day of March, 2003.

Accepted on behalf of ESS by:

Accepted on behalf of UN/ISDR by:

Irwin Itzkovitch  
Assistant Deputy Minister, ESS  
Department of Natural Resources, Canada

Salvino Briceño  
Director, UN/ISDR  
United Nations